

CLAIM OR CLAIMS

1. A universal paint shield for releasable attachment to an electrical wall outlet or switch assembly for preventing paint from contacting the cover plate of the assembly or any other exposes surfaces or components thereof, comprising:

a molded plastic body formed as a unit including generally rectangular front panel having a front surface and a rear surface, top, bottom and side walls projecting rearward of said front panel and having continuous edge portions which define an open rear side of said body;

at least two opposing said edge portions of said top and bottom or said side walls biasingly engaging the corresponding outer edge surfaces of the cover plate to entirely cover all front and side surfaces of said assembly, said top, bottom and side walls being formed with thin edge sections on the rear portions thereof, said opposing edge portions having concaved or inwardly contoured longitudinal edges which resiliently cooperate with said thin edge sections having a degree of resilience which allows them to be force fitted over the corresponding outer edge surfaces of the cover plate to provide an only means of releasably retaining said paint shield over the assembly.

2. A universal paint shield for releasable attachment to an electrical wall outlet or switch assembly for preventing paint being applied from contacting the cover plate of the assembly or any other exposes surfaces thereof, comprising:

a molded plastic body formed as a unit having generally rectangular front panel having a front surface and a rear surface, top, bottom and side walls projecting rearward of said front panel and having continuous outer edge portions;

said front panel having a forwardly extending central panel portion which defines an enlarged clearance cavity which rearwardly opens and faces the assembly;

said edge portions of said top and bottom or said side walls biasingly engaging against the corresponding outer edge surfaces of the cover plate to entirely cover and protect all front and side surfaces of said assembly, said top, bottom and side walls being formed with thin edge sections on the rear portions thereof, said edge portions along the lengths thereof arcuately inwardly contoured cooperating with said thin edge sections to provide a degree of resilience which allows them to be force fitted over the corresponding outer edge surfaces of the cover plate to securely releasably retain said panel shield in a deployed position over the assembly.

3. A universal paint shield for releasable attachment to an electrical wall outlet or switch assembly for preventing paint being applied to an adjacent wall surface from contacting the cover plate of the assembly or any other exposes surfaces and components thereof as the wall is painted, comprising:

a molded plastic body formed having generally uniform section thickness, including a generally rectangular front panel having a front surface

and a rear surface, top, bottom and side walls projecting rearward of said front panel and having continuous outer edge portions;

said front panel having a forwardly extending central portion which defines an enlarged clearance cavity which rearwardly opens to face the assembly and is adapted to provide adequate clearance for all exposed surfaces and components of a wide variety of any such assemblies;

at least two opposing said edge portions of said top and bottom or said side walls biasingly engaging against the corresponding outer edge surfaces of the cover plate to entirely cover all exposed front and side surfaces of said assembly, said edge portions having opposing inwardly contoured longitudinal edges spaced apart at central portions thereof a distance just slightly less than a corresponding or width of the cover plate and of sufficient resilience to allow them to be force fitted over the corresponding outer edge surfaces of the cover plate for biased releasable retention of said paint shield in a deployed position over the cover plate.

4. A universal paint shield as set forth in Claim 3, further comprising:
a textured or ribbed gripping band formed into outer surfaces of the side portions of the clearance cavity for enhanced finger gripability of said paint shield during deployment and removal.